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■ The heart of an intelligence empire: a snow-covered statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, first chief of the Soviet secret police, stands guard in front of KGB headquarters in central Moscow

The KGB Eyes of the Kremlin

The new KGB: how Andropov's agents watch the home front and the world

Four hours after the funeral of Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev last November, an incident that would have seemed improbable in the most contrived spy thriller unfolded in the Green Room of the Kremlin. As leader of the American delegation attending the Brezhnev burial, Vice President George Bush had been invited for a private chat with the new Communist Party chief, Yuri Andropov. The atmosphere was stiffly formal. Bush, who had been director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1976 to 1977, tried to break the ice with a bit of humor. Said the Vice President:

bifocals and smiled enigmatically. For the first time in history, a former director of the CIA had come to visit the onetime head of the *Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti* (Committee for State Security), known worldwide by three letters: KGB.

As Andropov well knew, there is nothing at all similar about the position Bush held for a year and the powers that the Soviet leader wielded for 15 years as chief of the world's largest spy and state-security machine. From an office in the KGB's ochre-colored neo-Renaissance headquarters at 2 Dzerzhinsky Square,*

barely a mile from the Kremlin, the head of the KGB oversees an intricate network of espionage and information-gathering operations that further the political objectives of the Communist Party. Unlike the CIA, the KGB works both abroad and at home, doing for the U.S.S.R. what the CIA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency and the Secret Service do for the U.S.—and a good deal more. The KGB chief commands an army of some 700,000 agents and about as many informers (vs. a U.S. intelligence and counterintelligence network of only 130,000), most of whom keep watch on their fellow citizens within the U.S.S.R.